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International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

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2017-03-20

**Subject:** Invitation to an Interregional Workshop on Stakeholder Involvement in Decision Making for Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation from 27–30 June 2017, IAEA-Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

Dear National Liaison Officer,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the above-mentioned workshop under the framework of TC Project INT/9/183 – Overcoming the Barriers to Implementation of Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Projects. The purpose of the workshop and related information are outlined in the attached Prospectus.

For candidates who are selected by the IAEA, the IAEA will cover the cost of return international travel from the home country to Vienna, Austria and provide Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the workshop in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Mr Andrejs Salmins (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail [Official.Mail@iaea.org](mailto:Official.Mail@iaea.org)), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **30 April 2017**.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Krause

Director

Division for Europe

Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosures: Prospectus

# International Atomic Energy Agency

## Workshop on Stakeholder Involvement in Decision Making for Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation

### PROSPECTUS

- Project Number & Title:** INT/9/183 Overcoming the Barriers to Implementation of Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Projects
- Place (City, Country):** Vienna International Centre (VIC), Vienna, Austria
- Dates:** 27–30 June 2017
- Deadline for Nominations:** 30 April 2017
- Organizers:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Host Country Organizer:** Mr Andrejs Salmins  
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Division for Europe  
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Tel.: +43-1-2600-26442  
Email: a.salmins@iaea.org
- Language:** English
- Purpose:** The primary objective of this workshop is to have participants exposed to different approaches used to incorporate social and ethical aspects in the decision making process related to the implementation of decommissioning and environmental remediation projects..
- Expected Output(s):** The workshop will enable the participants to learn from different experiences in which elements of social sciences can assist in a better articulations of stakeholder views and opinions in the process of decision making and consequently better structure this process in their own countries. By learning with real case situations and having close contact with social scientists it is expected that fruitful and constructive dialogue in this area might be sustained going beyond the discussions that generally take place amongst technical professionals e.g. engineers, project managers, etc.
- Scope and Nature:** The workshop will take place on the margins of the RICOMET Conference. This event is organised under the auspices of Euratom Projects and intends to promote the dialogue on social and ethical issues, as well as encourage

stakeholder and public participation in nuclear science, technology and innovation. So far, two events were organised: in 2015 in Slovenia and 2016 in Romania. The 2017 version will focus on the “Social and Ethical Aspects of Decision Making in Radiological Risk Situations” in which Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation are included. The Conference will take place from 26–28 June 2017. During this period participants of the workshop will have the opportunity to attend different lectures of the Conference and will also be invited to present their contribution to the event, so that they will receive views and contributions of experienced professional in the area of social sciences. During the last day of the workshop participants will be able to discuss among themselves the relevant topics collected during the Conference and specify how the lessons learned can be incorporated in their activities. By exposing workshop participants to highly qualified professionals networking will be enhanced and future collaborative activities established. In this respect by incorporating social and ethical elements in the decision making process of D&ER the chances to achieve consensus in the determination of end-states, reference levels and other elements of D&ER projects will be enhanced.

**Background  
Information:**

Despite the fact that significant progress has been achieved in recent years in terms of implementation of D&ER projects, much remains to be done in terms of addressing the legacies from the early development of nuclear energy. There is a need to improve the implementation of decommissioning and clean-up of nuclear fuel cycle and research facilities, the dismantling of research reactors and the remediation of sites affected by past practices developed without proper consideration of environmental aspects. Some countries are moving forward with dealing with these legacies, and accordingly have built up appropriate technical resources and expertise. However, many national programmes still face very significant challenges. In many cases stakeholder related issues play a significant role in delaying or impeding the full implementation of these activities. These will frequently lead to escalation in costs or the adoption of end-states or reference levels that might be seen as unnecessarily restrictive. As a consequence, resources that could be more beneficial in other social priorities will be allocated to implement these projects.

There has been an evolution in stakeholder expectations and a revolution in information technology. Today, there is a greater expectation of integrated engagement of policy-makers, regulatory authorities, industry and the public in the decision-making process. Integrating public engagement into decision-making concerning D&ER, particularly concerning desired end states, is extremely complex. The key areas constraining progress discussed during the conference included:

- Limited technical knowledge and understanding of science leading to risk perception based predominantly on emotion and fear.
- Groups and individuals opposed to projects because of waste disposal concerns and/or past negative experience with D&ER projects.
- Insufficient government commitment or support to implement D&ER projects.

- Limited budget or technical resources to meet stakeholder demands.
- Changing procedures, legal frameworks or strategies relating to D&ER projects.
- Lack of trust among the many stakeholders in the process, particularly between affected public and government authorities and/or industry.

Decisions may require that a compromise be achieved between the desires of local communities, who may wish (for example) that waste is removed from the local area, and a lack of willingness of other communities to accept these materials, in particular whenever the site characteristics make the site of origin inappropriate for waste disposal. Unrestricted reuse of sites is widely expected as the end state for D&ER projects. However, it is not the optimal decision in all situations. The ability to make decisions based on sustainability concepts in such instances remains a challenge.

The IAEA International Conference on D&ER that took place in Madrid/2016 recognized that specific examples of successful stakeholder engagement are available and that the challenge is to determine the correct approach for each individual stakeholder community. Therefore this workshop (in combination with the RICOMET Conference) will be a unique opportunity of sharing recent experiences, both positive and negative, within the wider international community with a view to adapt these experiences to the specific circumstances in each community/country.

**Participation:** The workshop is open to up to 20 candidates from implementing and regulatory organizations responsible for the decommissioning and or environmental remediation projects from the target countries.

The target Member States are: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Zambia.

**Participants' Qualifications:** The targeted audience for this workshop is project managers, planners and other senior staff at organizations working on (or eventually to be designated as being responsible for) decommissioning/dismantling and environmental remediation projects (e.g., state or national resource management and regulatory agencies, operators of facilities or sites needing or undergoing large scale cleanup actions, national research organizations.).

An important characteristic of those attending will be a genuine interest in becoming knowledgeable in the social and ethical aspects of decommissioning and/or environmental remediation practice and to become

a national and regional resource as well as a facility specific resource for their countries. In this regard, participants should be either currently active in the field, or from organizations willing to make that commitment on their behalf, and willing to offer their assistance on a timely basis to others in their region with similar needs.

Participants must be nominated by the competent national authority of the Member State and, most specifically, by the Member States' official counterpart for the project.

**Nomination  
Procedure:**

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Mr Andrejs Salmins (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail [Official.Mail@iaea.org](mailto:Official.Mail@iaea.org)), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **30 April 2017**.

**Administrative  
and Financial  
Arrangements:**

Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will, at that time, be given full details of the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Vienna, Austria, and a Daily Subsistence Allowance at the prevailing UN Rate. Shipment of accumulated meeting materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the workshop do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the workshop, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.